Development of Aradhara Glider

220. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of development of Aradhara Glider incurred by the Technical Centre on this project;

(b) the number of defects pointed out by various organisations including National Credit Corps (NCC) in the performance of this Glider;

(c) the number of defects removed by the designers;

(d) the number and type of accidents in which the Glider has been involved since its 'Typed Certification'; and

(e) the number of Aradhara Glider manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) so far and their cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The cost of development of the Aradhara Glider is estimated to be Rs. 17.5 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Though no deficiencies/defects affecting the airworthiness of the Aradhara Glider were pointed out, 19 other deficiencies/defets have been pointed out by the Director General, National Cadet Corps (NCC), which relate rather to the process of design perfection; they have since been rectified satisfactorily.

(d) (i) There was one accident involving a civil Aradhara Glider. This accident occured at Government Gliding Centre, Pune. The cause of the accident was attributed to improper handling by the pilot who sustained minor injuries.

(ii) Two Aradhara Glider of the NCC have been involved in minor accidents and the occupants sustained minor injuries. The accidents were due to bad handling by the crew.

(e) Hindustan Aeronoutics Limited has manufactured 55 Aradhara Gliders upto 31.1.1987 at a total cost of Rs. 184.76 lakhs.

Development of double drum glider launching winch

221. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Double Drum Glider Launching Winch has been developed by Technical Centre at Safdarjung Airport;

(b) if so, in which year;

(c) whether this Winch has been tested and found satisfactory; and

(d) whether there is any plan to manufacture this Winch and is proposed to be offered to various Gliding Clubs and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Blindness Preventive Programme

222. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state what further steps Government propose to take to combat prevalence of blindness in the country during the financial year 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): In addition to the various steps already taken to combat the prevalance of blindness the following further steps have been proposed:—